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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/655,719	09/05/2003	Stephen M. Kroon	D/ A3379	8793
25453	7590	08/11/2005	EXAMINER	
PATENT DOCUMENTATION CENTER XEROX CORPORATION 100 CLINTON AVE., SOUTH, XEROX SQUARE, 20TH FLOOR ROCHESTER, NY 14644			BLACKMAN, ANTHONY J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2676	

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/655,719	KROON	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ANTHONY J. BLACKMAN	2676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7 and 8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 and 7-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the portion of a pre-half-toned data" in line 8.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Examiner will evaluate claim as best understood.

4. Claim 3 recites the limitation "the portion of the original data" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Examiner will evaluate claim as best understood.

5. Claim 8 recites the limitation "the half-toned threshold values" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Examiner will evaluate claim as best understood.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 3, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FIALA et al, US Patent No. 5,930,396 in view of KANNO, US Patent No. 5,701,364.

8. As per claim 1, examiner interprets FIALA et al to disclose the means of a method of detecting a portion of a half-toned uniform area in a half-toned bit-map (col 11, lines 1-12) comprising:
partitioning a half-toned bit-map into a plurality of N-pixel tiles (col 9, lines 1-2), each N-pixel tile having a marked pixel count M (col 16-25 wherein the marked pixel count is equivalent to the "same reference region") however, does not expressly teach and wherein the half-toned bit map is produced pursuant to a predetermined half-toning procedure;
comparing each N-pixel tile to a corresponding N-pixel reference tile that comprises a half-toned binary pattern that would be produced by the predetermined half-toning procedure for such N-pixel tile if the portion of a pre-half-toned data that resulted in such N-pixel tile were of uniform lightness;
identifying an N-pixel tile as comprising a portion of a half-toned

Art Unit: 2676

uniform region if it matches the corresponding N-pixel reference tile. KANNO suggest the following,

and wherein the half-toned bit map is produced pursuant to a predetermined half-toning procedure (column 5, lines 49-65 disclose TH1 a predetermined threshold);

comparing each N-pixel tile to a corresponding N-pixel reference tile that comprises a half-toned binary pattern that would be produced by the predetermined half-toning

procedure for such N-pixel tile (see fig 2, col 5, line 66 to col 6, line 4 teach a 1:1

comparison between the 8-bit input signal and the 8-bit predetermined threshold TH1)

if the portion of a pre-half-toned data that resulted in such N-pixel tile were of uniform lightness (the well-known uniform lightness feature is disclosed at col 6, lines 53-62,

wherein the uniform lightness corresponds to either black or white pixel color that is output) ;

identifying an N-pixel tile as comprising a portion of a half-toned uniform region if it matches the corresponding N-pixel reference tile (the identifying means of this limitation is inherent given that the conditional expressions (1) of col 5, lines 60-65 determines the basis of the comparison/matching step with the reference tile as shown by fig 2.).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use the conditional expression (1) means determining the 0 and 1 values for the black and white pixels providing comparison means between the predetermined threshold means and the 8-bit input image signal determining the pixel output of KANNO to modify the generation of halftone output of FIALA et al because use of KANNO provides the modification of “..binarizing/gradation processing scheme is used , a character area can

Art Unit: 2676

be binarized with a high resolution, and photograph and half-tone areas can be binarized with good degradation.

9. As per claim 3, claim 3 is substantially similar to claim 1.
10. As per claim 8, claim 8 is substantially similar to claim 3.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. MOLENAAR, US Patent No. 5,604,605. JOYCE, US Patent No. 4,941,190. BLOMBERG et al, US Patent No. 5,131,049. WILLIAMS et al, US Patent No. 5,307,180.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANTHONY J. BLACKMAN whose telephone number is 571-272-7779. The examiner can normally be reached on FLEX SCHEDULE.

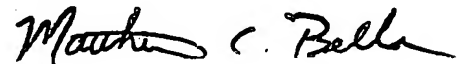
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MATTHEW BELLA can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8330

Art Unit: 2676

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



ANTHONY J BLACKMAN
Examiner
Art Unit 2676



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